

September 1, 2016

Kittleman announces repair permitting process for properties damaged in July 30 flooding

ELLICOTT CITY, MD – Howard County Executive Allan H. Kittleman today announced an expedited permitting process for properties damaged by the July 30 flash flood.

This accelerated process will allow permit applicants to schedule appointments with Howard County's Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits (DILP) on the hour between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays with the goal of issuing a permit the same day. The appointments will be held in the George Howard Building, 3430 Court House Drive in Ellicott City.

"Government should be a partner in the rebuilding of Ellicott City," Kittleman said. "Building owners have been through a lot already. This process should make it easier for them to reopen as quickly as possible."

The number of appointment slots could be expanded depending on the volume of requests. The expedited process will begin immediately and will be in effect through Dec. 31. Permit fees will continue to be waived through the end of the year as well.

The applicant, building owner, contractors and any architects or engineers involved in the repair project will be asked to attend the appointment to address any potential comments from reviewers, allowing for an immediate issuance of the permit.

"We know this could be a daunting task for applicants," said Bob Frances, director of the county's DILP. "It shouldn't be that way and we're going to do our best to reduce anxiety and make this a painless process."

Necessary Historic Preservation Commission approval must be obtained prior to the submission of any construction drawings to the county. In these cases, grant and tax credit opportunities are available, however they require approval from the Maryland Historical Trust. In-kind repairs do not require approval but they are not eligible for financial assistance. For help with HPC approval, call 410-313-2350.

Projects that involve a food service facility may require county Health Department Food Protection Program approval and approval is encouraged before entering the permit process. For health department support, call 410-313-1772.

Not all work will require a permit. General cleanup, replacing drywall on non-load bearing walls (including the replacement or addition of insulation), replacing any finishes on walls and ceilings and replacing doors and windows without new rough opening framing is allowed without county approval.

To see the complete details about the flood repair permitting process, go to www.howardcountymd.gov/ECStrong-Recovery-Resources.

To schedule an appointment, applicants may call Elaine Hauck at 410-313-2433.

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